

Amendment
Serial No. 09/811,526
Attorney Docket No. 010363

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus comprising:

a sensor section mounted on an apparatus body for detecting a fingerprint of an operator;

a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section in such a manner that an operator's finger can access the sensor section when the cover is in the open position; and

a contact section arranged on the apparatus body at a position where the operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith during an operator's action to open the cover, the contact section being electrically connected to a ground of the apparatus body,

wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and end closed positions,

wherein the contact section is a separate element from the cover, and

wherein said contact section is disposed in a recess surrounded by an inclined portion and said one free end of the cover is adjacent to said inclined portion when it is in the closed position.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the cover ~~has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and closed positions by means of a hinge provided at the base end of the cover.~~

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Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus comprising:

 a sensor section mounted on an apparatus body for detecting a fingerprint of an operator;
 a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section in such a manner that an operator's finger can access the sensor section when the cover is in the open position; and

 a contact section arranged on the apparatus body at a position where the operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith during an operator's action to open the cover, the contact section being electrically connected to a ground of the apparatus body,

 wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and closed positions by means of a hinge provided at the base end of the cover,

 wherein the contact section is arranged in a recess which is provided on the apparatus body at a position near to the free end of the cover when it is in the closed position, and

 wherein the contact section is a separate element from the cover, and

wherein said recess is surrounded by an inclined portion and said one free end of the cover is adjacent to said inclined portion when it is in the closed position.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus comprising:

 a sensor section mounted on an apparatus body for detecting a fingerprint of an operator;
 a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section in such a manner that an operator's finger can access the sensor section when the cover is in the open position; and

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a contact section arranged on the apparatus body at a position where the operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith during an operator's action to open the cover, the contact section being electrically connected to a ground of the apparatus body,

wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and closed positions by means of a hinge provided at the base end of the cover,

wherein the free end of the cover is gently curved in such a manner that a central portion thereof is protruded outwardly more than respective side portions thereof, and

wherein the contact section is a separate element from the cover, and

wherein said recess is surrounded by an inclined portion and said one free end of the cover is adjacent to said inclined portion when it is in the closed position.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus, as set forth in claim 4, wherein the contact section is arranged in a recess, and the recess and the contact section are also curved along with a curvature profile of the cover.

Claim 6 (Original): A fingerprint recognizing apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a locking means for locking the cover in its closed position, the locking means comprising a first engaging member provided at the free end of the cover and a second engaging member provided at a position corresponding to the first engaging member so that the first and

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second engaging members are mutually engaged with each other when the cover is in its closed position.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An electrical unit including a fingerprint recognizing apparatus, said unit comprising:

a unit casing;

the fingerprint recognizing apparatus mounted on the unit casing for detecting a fingerprint of an operator, the apparatus comprising:

a sensor section;

a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section; and

a contact section arranged at a position on the unit casing where an operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith when the cover is opened by the operator, the contact section being electrically connected to a ground of the unit casing,

wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and end closed positions,

wherein the contact section is a separate element from the cover, and

wherein said contact section is disposed in a recess surrounded by an inclined portion and said one free end of the cover is adjacent to said inclined portion when it is in the closed position.

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Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An electrical unit, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the cover ~~has one free end and another base end and~~ is moved between the open and closed positions by means of a hinge provided at the base end of the cover.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An electrical unit including a fingerprint recognizing apparatus, said unit comprising:

a unit casing;

the fingerprint recognizing apparatus mounted on the unit casing for detecting a fingerprint of an operator, the apparatus comprising:

a sensor section;

a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section; and

a contact section arranged at a position on the unit casing where an operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith when the cover is opened by the operator, the contact section being electrically connected to a ground of the unit casing,

wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and closed positions by means of a hinge provided at the base end of the cover,

wherein the contact section is arranged in a recess which is provided on the unit casing at a position near to the free end of the cover when it is in the closed position, and

wherein the contact section is a separate element from the cover, and

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wherein said recess is surrounded by an inclined portion and said one free end of the cover is adjacent to said inclined portion when it is in the closed position.

Claim 10 (Original): An electrical unit as set forth in claim 9, wherein the free end of the cover is gently curved in such a manner that a central portion thereof is protruded outwardly more than respective side portions thereof.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An electrical unit, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the recess and the contact section are also gently curved along with a curvature profile of the ~~recess~~ cover.

Claim 12 (Original): An electrical unit, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the fingerprint recognizing apparatus further comprises a locking means for locking the cover in its closed position, the locking means comprising a first engaging member provided at the free end of the cover and a second engaging member provided at a position corresponding to the first engaging member so that the first and second engaging members are mutually engaged with each other when the cover is in its closed position.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An electrical unit including a fingerprint recognizing apparatus, said unit comprising:

a unit casing;

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the fingerprint recognizing apparatus mounted on the unit casing for detecting a fingerprint of an operator, the apparatus comprising:

a sensor section;

a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section; and

a contact section arranged at a position on the unit casing where an operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith when the cover is opened by the operator, the contact section being electrically connected to a ground of the unit casing,

a ground contact plate which is rigidly connected to the unit casing, the contact section is formed as a part of the ground contact plate, and

wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and end closed positions,

wherein the contact section is a separate element from the cover, and

wherein said contact section is disposed in a recess surrounded by an inclined portion and said one free end of the cover is adjacent to said inclined portion when it is in the closed position.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): An electrical unit, as set forth in claim 7 further comprising a mounting plate for rigidly securing the fingerprint recognizing apparatus to the unit casing by means of a screw.

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Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An information processing unit including a fingerprint recognizing apparatus, said unit comprising:

 a unit casing comprising a data input section and a data processing section for processing data input from the data input section;

 a display section for displaying letters and images; and

 the fingerprint recognizing apparatus mounted on the unit casing for detecting a fingerprint of an operator, the apparatus comprising:

 a sensor section;

 a cover movable between an open position and a closed position for protecting the sensor section; and

 a contact section arranged at a position on the unit casing where an operator's finger can easily come into contact therewith when the cover is opened by the operator, the contact section electrically connected to a ground of the unit casing,

wherein the cover has one free end and another base end and is moved between the open and end closed positions,

wherein the contact section is a separate element from the cover, and

wherein said contact section is disposed in a recess surrounded by an inclined portion and said one free end of the cover is adjacent to said inclined portion when it is in the closed position.